

World AIDS Day in Birmingham, AL

December 1 is World AIDS Day

Calendar for the week of November 27th - December 3, 1995

Monday, November 27th

- 3-5 p.m. *A Celebration of Life for Persons Living with HIV* (and their loved ones and friends). Reception. Frances Spain Hodges Building (United Way), 3600 8th Avenue South.

Tuesday, November 28th

- 7:30 p.m. *Birmingham Community Concert: Songs, Prayers, and Healing*
Temple Emanu-El, 2100 Highlands Avenue, Birmingham.
- 12-1 p.m. *Candlelighting Ceremony at Veterans Affairs Hospital Chapel* (8th Avenue and 19th Street South).
- 3:00 p.m. *"Social Security and Disability Benefits,"* Educational Seminar at Birmingham AIDS Outreach for persons living with HIV, 205 32nd Street South.
- 5:00 p.m. *"Resources Available in the Community,"* Educational Seminar at Birmingham AIDS Outreach for family members, partners, and caregivers affected by HIV, 205 32nd Street South.

Friday, December 1st (World AIDS Day)

- 9-11 a.m. *GRACE* (Giving and Receiving AIDS Compassionate Education) educational workshop for the community at the UAB 1917 Clinic, 908 South 20th Street. Call 975-9129 for reservations.
- 9-5 p.m. *HIV Antibody Testing at Miles College*, sponsored by Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities. Announcement of scholarship winners for World AIDS Day essay contest.
- 10-Noon *World AIDS Day Memorial for Former Patients at St. George's Clinic*, Cooper Green Hospital.
- 10-6 p.m. *A Care Tree* at Five Points, Southside, tying red ribbons on the tree for persons living with HIV. Sponsored by AIDS Task Force of Alabama.
- 1:50 p.m. *Tolling of the Bells by local congregations* (15 times for 15 years of epidemic)
- 6-6:30p.m. *Gathering of the Community at Brother Bryan Park* (21st Street and 10th Avenue South)
- 6:30 p.m. *Candlelight Walk from Brother Bryan Park to Baptist Church of the Covenant* (Corner of 8th Avenue South and 22nd Street).
- 7:00 p.m. *AIDS Interfaith Memorial Service* at Baptist Church of the Covenant.
- 8:30 p.m. *Electric Blanket* (a dramatic, multi-projector slide presentation of the AIDS pandemic) at Space One Eleven (2409 2nd Avenue North).
- 9:30 p.m. *"What is World AIDS Day?"* on Birmingham and Bessemer Cable, Channel 4, sponsored by the Jefferson County Health Department.

Saturday, December 2nd

- 6-8 p.m. ***"One Woman's Perspective on What It Is Like To Live With HIV,"*** by Rae Lewis Thornton, special speaker at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (520 16th Street North) sponsored by Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities.
- 8-10 p.m. **Reception at the Atrium of Alabama Power for Rae Lewis Thornton** sponsored by Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities.

Sunday, December 3rd

- 2-5 p.m. ***Deck the Halls*** sponsored by AIDS Task Force of Alabama at Birmingham Art Association, 2318 First Avenue North.
- 3-6 p.m. ***Birmingham AIDS Outreach Art Auction*** at Space One Eleven (2409 2nd Avenue North).

Sponsoring Organizations for The AIDS Interfaith Memorial Service on December 1 include:

A Baby's Place of Alabama, Inc.
AIDS Education and Ministry Project
AIDS Task Force of Alabama
Alabama Hospice Organization
Birmingham AIDS Outreach
Birmingham Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
CareTenders
Children's Aid Society
The Family Clinic at Children's Hospital of Alabama
Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities
Jefferson County Health Department
St. George's Clinic, Cooper Green Hospital
UAB AIDS Center
UAB 1917 Clinic

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ALERT

News from the UFMCC
on AIDS Legislation, Education, Research and Treatment.

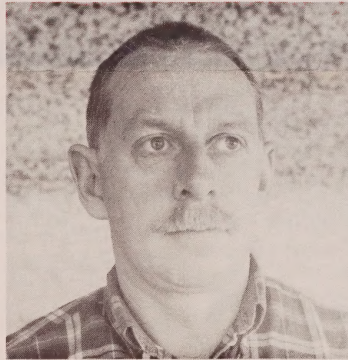
July 1995

MCC Sydney Offers Practical Spiritual Support

The HIV/AIDS ministry of MCC Sydney and their pastor, Rev. Greg Smith, District Coordinator of Australia, was featured in a recent issue of the magazine "Campaign". While Rev. Smith and his pastoral care team do a great deal of counseling with people with HIV/AIDS, and offer a spiritual support group, MCC Sydney also offers practical assistance to help fulfill basic needs for people with HIV infection.

Smith feels that MCC fills in the gaps between HIV/AIDS agencies and bureaucracies. MCC Sydney runs the Manna Project which "provides food parcels for PWA's who from time to time find it hard to make ends meet." The church also provides "set-up parcels for people who are moving into houses." It provides them with lots of basics that they need to get started: perishables, soap, coffee, (even) a smaller parcel which is a four day supply of non-perishable food." The church may give out \$700 in food in less than four weeks.

MCC Sydney's AIDS Ministry also offers "for want of a better word, 'welfare projects' which provide basic household furniture and items for people -- crockery, cutlery, sheets, linen, doonas, pillows -- all the basics to set someone



Rev. Greg Smith

up as they're moving into a Housing Commission or other Department of Housing funded accommodation."

Smith sees a particular need among "younger guys," HIV-positive teenagers. The church helps them to get off the streets, and motivates them to care for themselves. "We can...give them that bit of incentive to look after themselves and show them that there are some groups that care enough for them to empower them to do something for them-

selves. That is all funded through our opportunity shop called the Out of the Closet Emporium. We receive donations from the community for anything, goods and cash, anything from beds to clothes. We take it with a guarantee to the donor that it would be used for people with HIV/AIDS, their carers and friends."

Another ministry in the Sydney church is a weekly Sunday luncheon "for PWA's and their carers, and that's become very successful. We've been doing it for about two years now. We do that in conjunction with help from other groups...Some groups will put on a drag show or bingo."

Noting that the church has historically not been very good at helping young people face death and grief, Smith talks passionately about the importance of funerals and burial services as a primary ministry of the church. "It's not a place to use mumbo-jumbo and religious gobbledegook to confuse people. It should be the place where we really get to say who our friends are, who our lovers were, and what our community's done." These services provide opportunity as well to ease the pain, grief, and guilt of loss.

(see MCC Sydney, page 2)

New HIV Prevention Program from UFMCC AIDS Ministry

UFMCC AIDS Ministry is pleased to announce a new HIV prevention program targeting young gay men, ages 18-25: the "Peer Education Program of the Metropolitan Community Churches," or PEP/MCC.

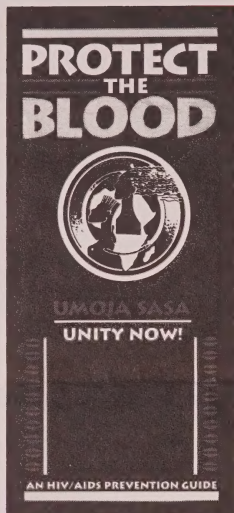
Every local MCC will be sent an inspiring video about the program, and a Training Manual for Peer Educators with a special appendix for Trainers. With these resources, each local church can establish a Peer Education Program for HIV prevention. PEP/MCC is based on the highly successful PEP/LA, founded and directed by Wendy Arnold, M.P.H. PEP/LA and Ms. Arnold have already established PEP's in 8 countries beyond the U.S., including Russia, Hungary, and Thailand, which shows that the program is culturally adaptable.

The video has been produced and directed by Alison Arngrim. The video is hosted by Ms. Arngrim, and features Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, and interviews with a number of young gay men, lesbians, and straight youths who are involved in PEP/LA. The video was shot and edited by Joseph Conarkov, who has worked on projects such as the film, *True Lies*, MTV and Nickelodeon "spots", and video programs for the Texas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

The manuals have been adapted and revised by Bob Schoonover and Rev. Steve Pieters from the Southern California AIDS Hotline Training manual, and the PEP/LA training manual. Schoonover is the founding director of the Southern

(see New HIV Program, page 2)

"Protect The Blood!" Campaign



The Umoja Sasa (U.S.) Prevention Marketing Group, the country's leading prevention marketing organization targeting under-served ethnic/minority communities, has announced the "Protect The Blood!" Campaign, a culturally sensitive HIV/AIDS prevention/education program. Umoja Sasa is Swahili for "Unity Now!"

The goal of "Protect The Blood!" is to make the program the rallying cry for the fight against HIV/AIDS in the African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American communities. The campaign emphasizes the need through frightening statistics: in the U.S. most of the women with AIDS are African-American. The majority of the babies with AIDS in the U.S. are African-American. The fastest growing group of teenagers with AIDS is African-American. In 1994, the second-fastest growing population of men with AIDS in the U.S. is African-American.

African-Americans account for 12% of the U.S. population, but according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in 1994, African-Americans represent 32.5% of all persons with HIV/AIDS, and 37.6% of new cases in the last year.

Churches as well as local service organizations are encouraged to include this prevention marketing program in their budget for education and prevention. Prevention marketing is one of the few weapons available in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The "Protect The Blood!" Campaign contains the following materials: Educational Matchbook Style Condoms (containing educational messages), educational brochures, videotapes, posters, T-shirts, sweatshirts, buttons, door hangers, and bumper stickers.

For more information, call 800-99-UMOJA, or fax (410) 625-1306. The address of the Umoja Sasa Prevention Marketing Group is P.O. Box 41401, Baltimore, MD 21203-6401. ▼

New HIV Program...

(continued from page 1)

California AIDS Hotline, and is currently the director of the Spanish AIDS Hotline in Los Angeles. The entire project has been supervised and coordinated by Rev. Steve Pieters.

Local MCC's will receive the video and manual before General Conference. During General Conference, there will be a workshop to provide further training. Wendy Arnold, Alison Arngrim, Bob Schoonover and Rev. Pieters will be available during the conference for consultation. Ms. Arnold will be available by phone through the rest of the year, for those who need further assistance in establishing their PEP/MCC.

Rev. Elder Troy Perry states in the video, "I want every MCC to have a peer training program...If we're going to double our size by the year 2001, we've got to stop the dying... The only effective vaccine against HIV is education."

This project is being funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, through the U.S. AIDS National Interfaith Network. ▼

PEP/MCC PACKAGE AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Every local Metropolitan Community Church will receive the PEP/MCC video and training manual free of charge. However, the video and training manual for the Peer Education Project of the Metropolitan Community Churches (PEP/MCC) is being made available for sale to other churches, organizations, and individuals. The complete package costs U.S. \$35, plus postage and handling. Anyone wishing to order the package, including the video, the peer educators' training manual, and the trainers' supplement, should write to: UFMCC Resource Center, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

ALERT is a Quarterly Publication

Readers are reminded that ALERT has become a quarterly newsletter, appearing in January, April, July, and October. During other months, there is a column on "HIV/AIDS Concerns" published in the UFMCC publication, "Keeping in Touch."

The ALERT newsletter contains information on AIDS Legislation, Education, Research and Treatment. The Editor is Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters.

For more information or to send a donation, please write: ALERT, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

MCC Sydney...

(continued from page 1)

During Leather Pride Week, Rev. Smith held a memorial service where most everyone, including Rev. Smith, were in "leather and bondage gear." It is one more way in which MCC's HIV/AIDS Ministry supports and affirms the diversity of lesbians and gay men of Sydney as they continue to suffer multiple losses. Fifteen years into the pandemic, it is perhaps not remarkable that Rev. Smith states, "Burying people, we're much better at than anyone else in that we truly believe that the funeral service should be a celebration of the person's life." ▼

Medical Update

Presented by Mark Katz, MD,
and reported by Jim Stoecker

[reprinted with permission from the Being Alive
Newsletter, June 1995.]

Survival After CD4 Count Falls Below 200

A recent report in the journal *AIDS* (February 1995) evaluated 579 men in the MACS study after their CD4 count dropped below 200. The subset studied were followed for three years after their initial drop in CD4 count.

Researchers found that 20% of the group did not have an AIDS-defining condition at the end of the three years. Some 28% of the men received an AIDS diagnosis within one year of the study, and 29% within two to three years. The rest of the group already had an AIDS-defining condition at the start of the study period.

Researchers noted that correlated with a longer time to an AIDS-defining condition were slower declining CD4 count, higher body mass index, and lower incidence of thrush. On the other hand, they found no correlation between disease progression and use of tobacco or alcohol or a history of sexually transmitted diseases. And interestingly, they found that 45% of the men who remained AIDS-free used neither prophylaxis for opportunistic infections nor antivirals.

It should be noted that the researchers took their data from the earlier years of the MACS study (which began collecting data in 1984). If we looked at the data today, one suspects that we would see a different distribution than reported in this article and that a larger percentage would be without an AIDS-defining condition.

Stress as a Cofactor for Disease Progression

What makes one person advance quickly to an AIDS-defining condition while another person remains asymptomatic for years? What are the cofactors for HIV disease progression? We know that age, viral strains, and genetic factors are important considerations. Common wisdom has said that stress might also be a cofactor, but there has not been any proof of this.

Now we read a study in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (April 1995) that appears to offer some proof about the effects of stress on a person with HIV. In this study, 99 HIV+ men without symptoms were compared to 65 seronegative men. In order to measure stress, the researchers used a standardized test that identifies 111 so-called "stressors." Each person in the study was rated on each stressor on a scale of zero to four. Interviews were given over a period of time; at the end of the study, each participant received an overall stress rating.

Not surprisingly, researchers found that the seropositive group had a much higher stress rating overall than the seronegative group. (We perhaps did not need a study to know this.) What is important is that they also found that those with higher stress ratings had statistically significant reductions in NK (natural killer) cells. This is the most objective data that we have to date that stress does have an effect on T-Cell function.

Some News on Antivirals

Two drugs can be additive (each brings their own efficacy), synergistic (together they raise the efficacy of each alone), or antagonistic (efficacy is reduced). In combination antiviral

(see *Medical Update*, page 4)

AIDS and Addiction Videos

A trilogy of 15-minute videos on AIDS and addiction are being distributed by the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay. The videos are designed to be used in treatment or support group settings with IV drug users, sex workers, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Made with the help of recovering addicts and those who are HIV infected, the videos' premise is that addicts will more willingly listen to those who have been there than to doctors and other health professionals.

The interviews are candid, real, and poignant. These videos can also be valuable for use in AIDS testing sites, homeless shelters, and by AIDS outreach workers who can reach the people on the street.

The three videos are:

Up A New Rope: A Talk about AIDS and Recovery.

Up A New Rope powerfully portrays the connection between IV drug use and AIDS through concrete and candid delivery of the information by recovering drug users, outreach workers and others who work closely with the addicted. The program cautions against high risk behavior, demonstrates methods of protection and encourages viewers to reach out towards recovery.

Haven

Haven takes the viewer through the depths and the steps that are needed to seek recovery from drug addiction. Those who have been there recount their journey from addiction through treatment to recovery and offer help and support to others in getting undercover and into treatment.

Fritz, Deb and Dennis: Living With AIDS

Fritz, Deb, and Dennis are former drug users who contracted HIV infection through unclean needles. They "tell it like it is" about the importance of maintaining good nutrition, a healthy lifestyle and relationships with lovers, friends and family while living with AIDS.

For more information on ordering the videos, please call (800) 633-7445. ▼

Viral Load Predicts AIDS Progression

By John S. James

(reprinted with permission from *AIDS Treatment News*, #125, June 16, 1995)

A prospective study of 62 patients found that viral load was the best marker available for predicting who would progress to AIDS:

*Those who had a viral load of over 100,000 copies per ml on their first measurement after seroconversion were more than ten times as likely to develop AIDS as those who did not, during the follow-up time of this study (median somewhat under five years).

*Blood samples from the 62 patients were saved at six-month intervals; the viral load test was later run on some of the samples obtained. Of those who had no samples over 10,000 copies in the first two years after seroconversion, the proportion developing AIDS was 6% of those whose CD4 count was under 500, zero for those over 500. But of those who had one or more sample over 10,000 copies in the first two years after seroconversion, 86% of those with CD4 under 500 developed AIDS - as did 45% of those with CD4 over 500.

(see *Viral Load...*, page 4)

Medical Issues Lymphoma: New TAG Report

[reprinted with permission from AIDS Treatment News, #224, 6/2/95]

The Treatment Action Group (TAG) has published a 64-page booklet on the current status of AIDS-related lymphoma. *The Lymphoma Project Report: Current Issues in Research and Treatment of AIDS-Associated Lymphoma*, by Michael Marco, with an introduction by Lawrence D. Kaplan, M.D., is based on interviews with dozens of experts.

Lymphoma, of which there are several kinds, is a cancer of the lymphatic system which occurs in HIV-negative as well as HIV-positive persons, it is much more common in persons with immune deficiency (whether caused by HIV, by drugs to prevent rejection of organ transplants, or by other causes) than in the general population. Lymphoma occurs in about five to ten percent of person with HIV, often after AIDS has been diagnosed (although it is the first AIDS-defining illness in about three percent of persons with AIDS). While it can occur at any CD4 count, the risk is greater when the count

is low. However, the length of time one is HIV infected may be a more important risk factor than the degree of immune suppression; for this reason, the number of cases of lymphoma is increasing since people with HIV are now living longer than before. Unlike Kaposi's sarcoma, which occurs mainly in gay men, lymphoma occurs about equally in all HIV risk groups; for unknown reasons, white men are at a slightly higher risk than others.

Sometimes lymphoma is found in a single rapidly-swelling lymph node; in other cases there is no specific sign, and the disease is difficult to diagnose.

Lymphoma can be cured in many cases, with chemotherapy, radiation, or other treatments. But it still remains a major life-threatening condition, with many people living less than a year after diagnosis.

The TAG booklet, first released May 1995 at the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, looks at all aspects of AIDS-related lymphoma, including conventional and experimental treatments. It includes 23 recommendations, mainly for improving future research. The writing is fairly technical, about at a medical student reading level.

The Lymphoma Project Report is available for U.S. \$10 from Treatment Action Group, 200 East 10th Street, #601, New York, NY 10003. It is available free of charge to people living with HIV disease who cannot afford to pay: call TAG at (212) 873-9044. ▼

Hope: The 1995 U.S. National Skills Building Conference

Hope is the theme of the 1995 U.S. National Skills Building Conference. The conference is the only national, award-winning management training conference exclusively designed to enhance the effectiveness of front-line workers in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The conference this year will be held October 19-22, 1995, at the Century Plaza Hotel and Tower in Los Angeles, CA. It is co-sponsored once again by the AIDS National Interfaith Network, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the National Association of People with AIDS, all U.S. based organizations. The conference last year, in Atlanta, attracted more than 1800 AIDS workers and people living with HIV/AIDS from all over the world.

This year's conference theme, HOPE, strikes a universal chord in all people working in the AIDS movement. While many of us disagree about many things at any given time, we can all agree with certainty that within each of us lives hope. It cannot be disputed that we all hope for a cure, pray for the strength to carry on, and we hope to never forget all those who have gone before.

Members of the Metropolitan Community Churches have been, and will continue to be, key players in planning, teaching, and attending the National Skills Building Conference. Instead of a UFMCC AIDS Ministry Conference, members of MCC are encouraged to attend this conference which provides far greater opportunities for learning, growing and networking.

For more information contact the National Skills Building Conference office at 1931 13th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-4432; phone (202) 483-1124; fax (202) 483-1127. ▼

Viral Load...

(continued from page 3)

These findings, from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) were published by Mellors JW, Kingsley LA, Rinaldo CR, and others, "Quantitation of HIV-1 RNA in Plasma Predicts Outcome after Seroconversion," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, April 15, 1995; volume 122, pages 573-579. The research was funded in part by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. ▼

Medical Update...

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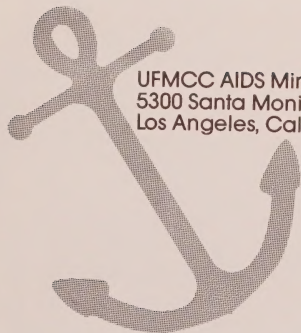
therapy, we want to avoid antagonistic drugs and search for synergistic combinations. In a study reported at the recent Conference on Antiviral Research in Santa Fe, researchers reported synergy in a combination of AZT and a protease inhibitor. This was, however, a test tube study, but it does offer hope that once protease inhibitors become available, we may have a powerful combination to fight HIV.

On the down side, it was reported that when resistance develops to this protease inhibitor, viral strains can develop that are resistant to all protease inhibitors.

At the same conference, Burroughs-Wellcome reported on early studies of its latest antiviral, 935U83. After 24 weeks of study, no resistance has developed and side effects are less than what we have seen with earlier antivirals. Researchers also report that in the test tube the drug remains active against viral strains resistant to AZT, ddI, and ddC. We should be hearing more about this new antiviral as testing continues.

SPV-30: Made in France and Testing in the U.S.

We have news of a new drug called SPV-30 that is an extract from the boxwood tree. This drug is made in France and a phase I trial there showed an average CD4 count rise of 100 for those on the drug and a drop of 50 for those on placebo. Noted French AIDS researcher Luc Montagnier is very interested in this particular drug and is planning more trials. You can get a free six month supply of the drug in return for providing regular blood work results to the researchers. For information on this study, call David Stokes in Boston at (617) 424-9195. ▼



UFMCC AIDS Ministry
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304
Los Angeles, California 90029

RESORTED
FIRST CLASS



REV MARGE RAGONA
911 G VALLEY AVENUE
BIRMINGHAM AL 35209

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All Things Are Possible!
Mark 9:23

DATE: March 10, 1995

TO: All United States Churches and General Council
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

FROM: Jane Rogers, Public Policy Coordinator *JR*
UFMCC AIDS Ministry Task Force

RE: AIDS Funding Crisis - A Call For Help

AIDS FUNDING IS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND WE NEED YOUR HELP! Congress is in the process of eliminating funding for housing for people with HIV/AIDS!

The House of Representatives Appropriations Committee has eliminated **ALL** of the \$186 million FY95 budget for HOPWA - the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS Program in HUD. And, all of the Section 8 vouchers for PWA's are eliminated.

UFMCC

5300 Santa Monica
Suite 304
Los Angeles
CA 90029 USA

Tel (213) 464-5100
Fax (213) 464-2123

What Does This Mean? Housing programs for approximately **50,000 PWA's** will lose federal HUD funding. People with HIV/AIDS may die prematurely, on the streets and in hospital emergency rooms.

What is being done? A massive lobby of the U.S. House of Representatives is underway. (See the attached AIDS Action Council ALERT.)

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO NOW?

The AIDS Action Council has advised UFMCC that we should start to lobby the U.S. Senate and try to get the Senate to appropriate HOPWA funds and save this program!

THE MESSAGE: VOTE TO RESTORE THE FY95 HUD HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS FUNDS AT \$186 MILLION DOLLARS WHEN THE FY95 APPROPRIATIONS BILL COMES BEFORE THE US SENATE THIS MONTH. (Tell your Senator's office how elimination of these funds will affect your city and state and your church.)

1. **Call the Senators** in YOUR State today. Call the U.S. Senate switchboard and ask to be connected to your Senator's office - (202) 224-3121
OR

Call Senators at their state offices. Libraries or newspapers have the local numbers.

2. **FAX** a typed or written message to your Senator's Washington Office. Your local library may have the FAX number - many Senate offices will not give them out!
3. **Write a letter** (sample attached) and send to your Senator at:
U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510
4. **SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH-** Prepare a letter to both of your Senators on your church letterhead. Have your congregation sign it and mail it to U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.
5. **ALERT** all AIDS organizations your Governor and Mayor's Office.

**ANSWER YOUR CALL TO CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION TODAY.
EVERY CALL, FAX AND LETTER IS NEEDED AND WILL MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

December 20, 1995

To: All Care Team Members
From: Malcolm Marler, AIDS Education and Ministry Project
Re: Contact Record Sheets, Training Program/Support

Dear Team Member:

I am writing to let you know about two new changes for 1996 regarding AIDS Care Teams. The first has to do with a new tracking system we are beginning in our program with contact record sheets. The second is a way to give you and your team more support.

First, you will find a Contact Record Sheet included. Beginning January 1, 1996, all contacts with your Care Team Friend, Care Team, and related matters should be recorded on this sheet and turned in at your monthly meeting. Please make ample copies for yourself and other team members who may not receive this letter. A sample sheet is on the reverse side. Why is this sheet so important? There are several advantages to documenting your involvement.

- ✓ **It will help you realize what your team is accomplishing.** Most of us will be surprised at how many total hours are being offered each month by our Care Team. It will also help us be accountable to one another and hopefully avoid burnout by allowing leaders to see what each member is doing.
- ✓ **It will give us regular feedback about your experiences and improve our training and support programs.** As of December 1, we now have 42 AIDS Care Teams functioning across the state with over 500 total members. We need to stay in touch with you better and this information will help us shape the future of the program.
- ✓ **This information will help us share with others how Care Teams are making a difference with people living with HIV in Alabama.** We are in the process of identifying funding to expand our program. Each source will want to know accurate information regarding how many people are being served, what kind of support is being offered, and how much time is being invested. *Care Team Leaders will receive a Quarterly Report Form* in the next few weeks that will help them summarize this information. The leaders will be asked to mail the Contact Record Sheets and the Quarterly Report to us 4 times per year. All of the information will be recorded in a database.

(Over)



Second, we have training for Care Teams on the second Saturday of every month. Now, as a part of the training I lead a *support* time from 3:00-4:30 p.m. for Care Team Members throughout the city and state. We resource one another by solving common problems, celebrating successes, and sharing feedback about what our teams need. I would like to ask you to do the following:

- ✓ **Have a volunteer represent your team at the next support meeting at Shades Valley Lutheran Church, 720 Shades Creek Parkway (directly across from the Brookwood Mall off Lakeshore Drive) on January 13th from 3:00-4:30 p.m.** and each month following. Then, the representative can report back to your team. Our meetings for January, February, and March will be at Shades Valley Lutheran. Future locations will be announced soon. You may want to share the representation among all team members so that attendance will only be necessary once or twice a year.
- ✓ **If you, or anyone on your team, has not attended our full day training (8:30-4:30) for Care Teams, please call 975-9126 to make reservations** (cost is \$10 and includes lunch). An agenda is enclosed. You are welcome to attend any part of the training you may have missed before or may be interested in now.

I appreciate what you are doing as a member of an AIDS Care Team. I believe it is one of the best examples anywhere how people of faith are making a difference in the AIDS epidemic. The contact record sheets and monthly support meetings will help us stay in touch and serve you better. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Marler
Director, AIDS Education and Ministry Project

P.S. If you are serving on a team outside of the Birmingham area and it is impractical for your team to participate in our support meetings, please let us know and we will link you with other teams in your area. There are many other ways to get support for your team members that we can share with you. Also, if anyone on your team is not receiving *Red Ribbon Reflections* newsletter, ask your leader to send us their name and address and we will add them.

You may contact Malcolm Marler or Joe Elmore at:

UAB 1917 Clinic
908 South 20th Street
Birmingham, AL 35294-2050
205-975-9129
Email: Malcolm@byrd1917.his.uab.edu

Care Team: _____ Person Filling Out This Form _____

AIDS Care Team Contact Record Sheet

Please report all contacts and attempted contacts on this form.
Then, turn this form in to your Care Team Leader at your monthly meeting.

Date of Contact	Approximate total time (minutes)	Visit	Phone	Written	Other	Notes about Contact
Totals						

AIDS Care Team Contact Record Sheet

Please report all contacts and attempted contacts on this form.

Then, turn this form in to your Care Team Leader at your monthly meeting.

Date of Contact	Approximate total time (minutes)	Visit	Phone	Written	Other	Notes about Contact
10/12/95	45	✓				Picked up at home and went out to eat together. Needs a ride to the doctor on Thursday at 11 a.m. Was my first time to be alone with him, I was a little nervous and I think he was too. Went well.
10/12/95	5		✓			Called Care Team Leader and told her about doctor's appointment and need for transportation. Said she'd take care of it.
10/15/95	15		✓			Just called to see how he was doing. Seemed depressed today. Talked a lot about his job that he misses. Low grade fever.
10/21/95	20			✓		Wrote a note to let him know I was thinking about him and praying for him.
10/24/95	30				✓	Care Team Leader called his social worker at the clinic today. Told her about his concerns about losing his insurance. Also talked about the problem he is having with his family. I need to alert the rest of the team about this.
10/31/95	40		✓			Talked a lot today about his loneliness and fear. I didn't know what to say so I just listened. Told him he was not alone, that our team is going to stick with him.
11/8/95	75				✓	Attended Care Team meeting at church.
						Sample
Totals	230 or 3 hrs.50 min.	1	2	1	2	

COMMUNITY AIDS EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

January 13, 1996

Shades Valley Luthern Church, 720 Shades Creek Parkway

A new easy access number for AIDS volunteers!
**Community AIDS Education and Volunteer
Training Line
975-9126**

- 8:00-8:30 **REGISTRATION** - A ten dollar registration fee covers lunch and materials.
- 8:30-9:00 **WELCOME AND COMMUNITY AIDS RESOURCES** - Who, What and Where are They?
- 9:00-10:30 **AIDS 101**
- 10:30-10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45-11:15 **PSYCHO-SOCIAL ISSUES OF PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV**
- 11:15-11:45 **A PERSONAL STORY -- LIVING WITH HIV**
- 11:45-12:30 **LUNCH**
- 12:30-1:30 **DIVERSITY AWARENESS** - Understanding Stereotypes and Prejudices
- 1:30-1:45 **BREAK**
- 1:45-2:45 **MANAGING GRIEF AND LOSS**
- 2:45-3:00 **PRESENTATION OF GRADUATION CERTIFICATES**
- 3:00-4:30 **SPECIALITY WORKSHOPS**
- A. AIDS Care Team Orientation (for persons joining or forming a care team)
 - B. Care Team Support for Members and Leaders (for persons who have already attended orientation and are now serving on a care team)
 - C. Volunteer Opportunities in the Birmingham area
- 4:30 **DISMISS**

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

A Baby's Place of Alabama, AIDS Task Force of Alabama, AIDS Education and Ministry Project, Baptist Health Systems-Hospice, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities, The Family Clinic at Children's Hospital, and The UAB 1917 Clinic.

